

~~TOP SECRET~~
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MAY DAY FLY-BY RAINED OUT

- I. Moscow's weather on May Day was so miserable that it cancelled the air parade, and even washed out the grand march of "joyous" citizens.
- A. Rehearsals for the air parade, however, were flown almost to the last minute and our observers have now actually seen ~~a full dozen~~ ^{ELEVEN} Type 37's (the Soviet heavy jet bomber) in flight together and, as a result of photography, have established the fact that at least 13 of the jet heavies have now been flown.
- B. Tentative reevaluation of US Air Force estimates on Soviet heavy bomber production, undertaken when only 10 Type 37's were known to exist, showed that the USSR's bomber program was far in advance of Intelligence expectations.

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C. Confirmed existence of 13 of the jet heavies, which we now possess, further emphasizes the extent of this unexpected Soviet advance.

II. Air Force evaluators are even now making new computations.

- A. As a preliminary summary of Air Force findings, however, we can say that-- using the US B-52 program as a yardstick--the Soviet heavy bomber program is running a good bit ahead of ours.
- B. Air Force tentatively estimates that: 40 Type 37's will have been produced by July of this year, of which 20 probably will be operational units.
- C. By mid-1956, 120 may have been produced, with 80 in units: by mid-1957, 280 may have been produced, with 200 in units.
- D. Under present program, our mid-1957 target is 150 B-52's produced.

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